

⬇ Cable Turtles

Cable tidiers

One of the main problems with technology and its attendant peripherals is the yards of accompanying wires. These simple donut-shaped holders could be the answer to your problem. Simply wrap the slack wire up inside one of the Cable Turtles and it's neatly packed away, which should impress your mother if no one else.

Purves: www.purves.co.uk

Price: small £5, giant £9



➡ Sharp VL-NZ10H

Digital camcorder

The tiny and stylish Sharp lets you film from any angle using the 270-degree, 3in colour LCD (liquid crystal display), leaving you free to focus on the subject. Plus, thanks to its compact and lightweight proportions, the VL-NZ10H fits comfortably into your hand. The camcorder has an optical high sensitivity microphone that zooms in simultaneously with the lens to capture distant sound. In addition, its digital gamma correction feature enables contrast and detail to be increased in dark conditions, while ensuring image stability.

Sharp: www.sharp.co.uk

Price: approx £800



⬆ Toshiba SD-510E

DVD player

This sleek and sexy, silver-cased DVD player is in Toshiba's mid-price range, offering DVD/CD video and audio capabilities as well as CD-R. The unit is about the size of a VCR player and offers several interactive capabilities, including multiple language tracks, subtitle tracks, camera angles and a parental lock function to stop the kids watching any unsuitable videos. DVD functions on the SD-510E include slow motion, fast forward, repeat and scene programming, which means you can tell the DVD in what order you want to watch each scene.

Toshiba: www.toshiba.co.uk

Price: £400



⬅ Smartphone 2002

Mobile phone with PDA function

Microsoft wants to do for the next generation of phones what it's hoping to do for game consoles: dominate. With the release of the Smartphone 2002, another step has been taken towards a more convenient future of computing. Made by HTC, Samsung, UK mobile phone maker Sendo and Taiwanese electronics firm Compal, the Smartphone will get branded by whichever mobile phone operator will be selling it. In the UK this will be, at least for now, Vodafone and Orange. Considering that O2 – once BT Cellnet – will be selling two kinds of next-generation PDA (personal digital assistant) phones by the end of this year, Christmas 2002 looks set to be the beginning of the end for the beige box. Microsoft: www.microsoft.com

Price: TBA



⬅ Jaguar S-Type R

Car

Okay, so this is going to be out of most of our price ranges, but its sleek and sexy shape makes it worth a mention in *Top gear*. The newly designed rear end is more bubbly than its predecessor and features twin-sporting exhaust pipes. The parking sensitive system is available at an extra cost, but is perfect for those who find reverse parking a bit tricky. The supercharged 4.2 litre V8 engine generates a whopping 400bhp, reaches 60mph in just five seconds and tops out at 155mph. The designers at Jaguar have also added a spoiler which they hope will allow it to compete with the sportier BMW models. If you can afford it, why not?

Jaguar: www.jaguar.com

Price: £47,400

➡ Minolta DimageX

Mini digital camera

This is by far the coolest digital camera offering from Minolta. It is smaller than a floppy disk and weighs just 135g – in fact, it looks more like a mini-MP3 player than a camera. Despite its teeny size Minolta has not skimped on functionality, with a 3x digital zoom lens and 2.11Mp (megapixel) CCD (charge-coupled device) included. Minolta has cleverly installed the zoom lens vertically inside the device using a prism to turn the light through 90 degrees – this makes it possible to install a high-power zoom lens within the 20mm-thick casing. As well as excellent pictures, the DimageX also captures video and audio. There's only one word for this baby – fantastic.

Minolta: www.minolta.co.uk

Price: £400



⬅ Beauhorn B2

Speakers

The Beauhorn B2 speakers look just like the BBC2 symbol, which falls, jumps, trips or flies on to your screen in between every programme, and is definitely a design that you'll love or hate. The high-quality, single-drive base speakers may be at the low-end price scale of Beauhorn's speaker range, but to us they're still extremely expensive. Measuring 1,200x340x750mm and weighing 25kg, they would make a perfect addition to any design-conscious household. Although the speakers are finished in blue MDF as standard, other colours can be arranged.

Beuhorn: www.beuhorn.com

Price: £2,500